

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF TUESDAY, January 16, 2007**

Fr. David opened the meeting with a prayer at 8:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Father David, Chris Ameel, Anthony Jubinski, Pieter Winne, Theresa Austin, Jim Ruemenapp, Lisa DiMaggio, Pat McGrath, Jane Petitpren, JoAnn Augustine, Sean Stawiasz, Debie Hauer, Liz Koerber and Elaine Abraham.

NOT PRESENT: Eileen Gretkierewicz, Karen Monsur, and Deacon Ken Nowicki.

MINUTES OF November 7, 2006 ACCEPTED.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Christian Service

- Welcome to two new members Cindy Hallman and Ruth Fix.
- Del Haskin Report - 174 cards were sent in 2006.
- Coffee/Donut Sunday was held January 14th and attendance was low to due the weather.
- Funeral Lunch Report - 17 Funeral lunches in 2006.
- Stars of Christmas – Gifts were provided for children in 24 families from United Methodist Church in Algonac, 16 families at Immaculate Conception and numerous items were sent to St. Mary's in New Baltimore.
- The next blood drive will be Sunday, April 29, 2007 and is suggested to be at the Parish Hall with the intent to draw more people.
- St. Vincent De Paul – Assisted 10 families with financial needs.
- The food pantry provided for 16 families.
- The Immaculate Conception Holiday dinner dance was a success with 130 people having attended. Sax Appeal has been booked for the next season Friday, December 7, 2007.
- Joan Tomaczycki would like to start a volunteer group to assist extremely ill parishioners with meals, providing transportation to doctors, etc. She will discuss this with Fr. David.
- The Vicariate Christian Service meeting was held on January 10, 2007. Five churches were represented. Discussions included:
 - Making prayer blankets for ill parishioners
 - Attending the "Gospel of Life" classes at the seminary, Thursday February 8th.
 - St. Anthony's has a grief session the 2nd and 4th Monday monthly at 6:30 until 8:00 PM. A men's only session will be held on the 4th Monday.
 - Compared notes on the food pantry.
 - Suggestions for requesting cards to be donated to Del.
- The St. Patrick's Party is Saturday, March 10 with Celtic Cross entertaining.
- The next Coffee/Donut Sunday – February 11th to coincide with Immaculate Conception Open House..
- Next meeting will be on February 6, 2007.

Christian Worship

- The new times for Christmas Masses went well. The 4:30 and 11:00 pm masses were the most attended.
- Father David will be training new altar servers, who must be in the fourth grade or older.
- The Epiphany Concert on January 7, 2007 went very well. There were approximately 100 attendees.

- An afternoon of prayers for life will be held in the church Sunday, January 21st.
- Ava Robinson will continue working with the church art and environment. Someone new has volunteered to work with Ava and may take over leadership in the future.
- Deacon Janusz Romanek, a last year student at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, will be doing his weekend internship here at the parish through April. He will be serving two masses per weekend and giving occasional homilies. Janusz will be ordained for the Marquette diocese on June 8, 2007.
- Goods from the Holy Land will be available after all masses the weekend of February 10th and 11th. The Alshomali family will be in the parish hall with items made from olivewood, mother of pearl, and other items from the holy land.
- Our parish Mission with Father Bob Weiss will run from March 4th through March 7th. After the last mass on the 7th refreshments will be available. Childcare and transportation will be made available if needed.

SCHOOL ADVISORY/PTC

Old Business

- December minutes will be reviewed with the January minutes at the next meeting.
- Sean informed the committee that MDOT has responded to our request for a stop light at M29 and Church Road. The traffic study will begin in the early spring.
- Kathleen Parzynski has resigned her position as business manager. Interviews will begin ASAP to fill the position. Michelle Meldrum will be available on Tuesdays to help in the interim.

Continuing School Improvement

- **School Philosophy/Mission Statement**
 - The faculty met with Mrs. Steele and revised the Philosophy Statement to include "...with faith woven throughout a challenging academic curriculum."
- **IOWA / MEAP / HPT Results**
 - **IOWA:** Faculty currently reviewing results.
 - **MEAP:** With 90% participation MEAP scores show results in the mid to upper 80th percentile for English and Math and into the mid 90th percentile in Science. Mrs. Steele stated that legislation has changed this year and the MEAP will not be administered at IC next year.
 - **High School Placement Test:** Results show many students with scores in the 80th and 90th percentiles.
- **Accreditation**
 - The Committee continues to focus on our Narrative School Improvements (self-study). The faculty is also focusing on the narratives and has been divided into groups to concentrate on individual aspects. The formation of a Long Range Plan continues to be a joint effort between SAC, Stewardship and Parish Council. The yearly accreditation report and Together in Faith Document will be used as guidelines.
- **Catholic Schools Week**
 - Catholic Schools Week will begin with Academic Olympics on Saturday the 27th of January. There will be opportunities during Masses that week for students to speak regarding the positive influence Catholic education has had in their lives.

New Business

- **PTC Report**
 - The Wine Tasting event is set for Saturday March 3rd. Tickets will be sold for \$45 per person. The golf outing is questionable at this time.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- On Wednesdays, March 14, 21, and 28 we will have Pasta with the Psalms in the Parish Hall.

STEWARDSHIP

Carol Gafa, member of the I.C. Events Committee, requested an opportunity to address our commission with an update of their activities. She reported they have chaired eight (8) events with deposits into the I.C. Building Fund from profits made. Renaissance Festival was cancelled but the others were successful. Two handouts were passed around, one with calendar of events; the other was concerning the lily sales. In the works at present time are the Mom/Son Bowling Day, about 15 signed up so far, and the Daddy/Daughter Valentines Dance in February. They may enlist other schools to participate in our functions, going in direction of Algonac for the dance; our goal is for 102 couples. St. Patrick's Day Dance is being planned. The Holiday Dinner Dance hosted 125 couples and was a great success. The next event after the dances will be the Easter Lily Sale, kick-off 2/25/07. Ava Robinson is continuing on the Art & Environment Ministry, would like to have two persons as coordinators/designers, with three helpers, a committee of five. Regarding the Easter Lily Sale, another florist who will let us have the pots at a reduced price of \$6 each has approached Carol. Carol's committee wants to give the profits from this sale to the Flower Fund in our parish. It was such a huge success last year, making \$271 profit, and they anticipate greater sales this year because they will have more time to promote it. They would lower the price from \$14 per pot to \$12 each, profit would be \$6 per pot versus \$5 last year, would be a win-win for everyone. Norm thought they should leave the price at \$14 and reap greater profits; Carol would take that back to her committee. Chris talked about a need for this parish to fund raising our events. He suggests looking at this from an annual position, that their committee should have an account with perhaps \$800 or \$1,000 working capital, then at year's end give the excess to the Building Fund, taking the pressure off if an event tanks. Carol liked that idea. Craig said the parish keeps accurate books; Debie will talk to Michelle about setting up a Fund Raising Account. Our commission makes recommendations to the parish council, and then it goes to Fr. David for approval. Craig made two points: 1. We got rid of Bingo and wanted to get into family oriented things. We did! And it has been fun! 2. Craig wants the committee people to document what we have done, the format, etc., what did we do right, what did we do wrong, what changes should we make, and what would we do differently to make improvements for next year.

Carol's committee consists of Mike Denys, head honcho, and four ladies (she is one of them). They put together the events, get the ball rolling, and get volunteers and helpers to work the event. They are a very enthusiastic group and looking for a few more members.

Agenda Items

1. Business Manager, the parish is looking for another one.
2. Awning placement over door of gym, no discussion.
3. New Building Maintenance. Filters for heaters brought to someone's attention, how do we clean them? Cobwebs! Someone to meet with Bob DeBusschere, Chris to handle that. Betsy said St. Catherine's has an electric device on wheels to change light bulbs, etc., which we could borrow. Debie said she met with Fr. David about the hall; it will be cleaned every other Friday by custodian subs.

Debt Repayment

Building cost 1.8 million dollars. We HAD a pledge drive, how do we go about getting the

money we need to repay our debt. Suggestions about sending out strong letters, have people sign new pledge cards and send monthly statements with envelopes, (at St. Catherine's there is a monthly building fund envelope), K of C should push the bricks again (which they intend to do), conduct survey, and an idea to have a 4-year plan pledge drive. Anything anyone can put their name on they will buy. There was a huge discussion; it was decided to forget about another survey and to have a meeting of our members as soon as possible to come up with a plan. Meeting set for Tuesday, 1/23/07, 6:30 PM, for anyone who could make it.

Debie said Kathleen (former Business Manager) had a new system, which may be changed again regarding the weekly amounts needed, published in the Spotlight.

The 2nd Quarter parish report was handed out.

VICARIATE REPORT

- Parish **Cluster Update:** 1) St. Stephen, Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Joseph continue to combine activities. Planning is being done on combining all commissions (except Stewardship). The process is going well. 2) All Saints, St. Phillip Neri and Holy Rosary are moving forward with the merger and implementation is planned by July 2007. 3) Parish councils have been combined and a timeline for the merger of Holy Cross, St. Catherine and St. Mark is in place. St. Catherine School will be demolished – it is no longer usable.
- Sharon Bender – representative from St. Stephens is the Vicariate nominee for the Keep the Dream Alive Award.
- Draft progress reports from each of the sub-committees (Young Adult Ministry, Social Justice/Multi-cultural and Stewardship) were prepared for Fr. David to pass along to the AOD Tracking Committee.
- Next meeting will be Wednesday, January 17, 2007 at All Saints in Memphis.

NEW BUSINESS

- Our new business manager, Kathleen Parzynski has resigned. Michelle Meldrum will be available to help out temporarily until a new person is found.

PASTOR'S COMMENTS

Parishioners have come forward to sponsor the installation of a complete new sound system for the church. Complete Communications of Michigan of Clinton Township will install the system. Installation will begin on Monday, January 22.

There will no Parish Council meeting in February. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 2007 at 8:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Koerber